



# Office of Drug Control Policy

## Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

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## ODCP Changes State's Approach to Fighting Drug Abuse

*Interim Executive Director Sylvia Lovely*

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*Lovely*

I am excited to share with you this month about just a couple of the Office of Drug Control Policy's communication efforts, about which you will also see articles in this briefing bulletin.

On November 10, nearly two and a half months into the ODCP's existence, the agency held a media day to further educate Kentucky reporters about the Statewide Drug Control Assessment Summit's plan and the ODCP's mission and strategy to better address the substance abuse problem in their state.

Changing the way Kentucky has approached the drug problem for the last 35 years by using only outcome-based programs and elevating prevention and treatment to the level at which law enforcement has been for so long is a major and long-term undertaking.

We need everyone to understand that, including reporters, who – whether their beat is the entire state or their small town – see what drugs are doing to their Commonwealth and communities. They are covering the problem and the efforts to fight it.

The ODCP needs to include them in its communication about why reworking the way state government handles substance abuse is what must be done to make the difference, and why even if Kentucky had \$100 million today to address substance abuse, the problem would not disappear. It would not be effective to throw that money at programs that do not work or are duplicative. There must first be a plan to ensure that the Commonwealth is effectively approaching the problem and using money wisely.

The ODCP was, of course, thrilled to have Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy speak to reporters and officials in drug prevention, treatment and enforcement at media day about the substance abuse issue from a national perspective. He is a very knowledgeable and outstanding speaker, as anyone at the event would tell you.

Besides being a media event, the day was perfect for communication between those in prevention, treatment and enforcement about their ideas and progress in their areas.

Speaking of communication, I am pleased to announce that the ODCP's Web site is now live.

The site will evolve along with the agency and is another way for the ODCP to share information with Kentuckians and people across the nation about its efforts, programs that work and the barriers to impacting the problem in the past.

For now, the site includes information about the ODCP and the Drug Summit, maps of treatment facilities in the state, news releases, national news clips about drugs, the ODCP briefing bulletins, of course, and much more.

Please check it out at [www.odcp.ky.gov](http://www.odcp.ky.gov).

Meanwhile, at some times in our lives, the stars line up and things begin

to be clearer. Such as it is with my work with ODCP.

The Drug Summit report called for an agency that would bring entities together around the three prongs of law enforcement, prevention and treatment to lead to a more effective strategy that would work to stem the tide of substance abuse. This has proven to be prescient. There is a hunger that is expressed every day for such an approach.

With a son just starting UK law school, I reconnected with my own law professor of long ago – Bob Lawson. About one month ago, he sent me a report he was readying for publication that affirmed the approach that is being taken by ODCP. It has since been widely reported in media outlets.

His report points out the ineffectiveness of the current reliance on incarceration to solve our criminal justice problems and in particular how ineffective law enforcement alone is to solving our growing illicit drug wars. It supports our contention that law enforcement has been, is and always will be an important part of the fight against substance abuse but how it cannot be alone in shouldering the burden.

Our beleaguered law enforcement professionals need help from the other professionals in the fields of treatment and prevention and we will see to it that it is provided!

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### Meeting Dates

#### December 7

Drug Task Force Standards Committee Meeting, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Conference Room, Bush Building, Frankfort



*U.S. Attorney Greg Van Tatenhove, Operation UNITE Executive Director Karen Engle, Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Interim Executive Director Sylvia Lovely of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy and Lt. Governor Steve Pence pose for a photo at ODCP's media day.*

### National Director Speaks at Media Day

Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy discussed the national epidemic of substance abuse and applauded Kentucky's plan to comprehensively address the problem during the state Office of Drug Control Policy's media day on November 10 in Lexington.

Walters said Kentucky is getting organized in a way it never has, using the "best and brightest in the state" and giving them leadership from the highest-level officials in Kentucky. These individuals are linked to state and local resources and are working with the federal government to better approach the substance abuse issue.

"This state is moving in a direction that we wish more states would," he said to reporters and others at the Marriott Griffin Gate, where the media day was held.

Walters was the key speaker at the event. Aside from his and a couple of other speeches, the occasion was informal. Others who were available to speak with the media were officials in drug prevention, treatment and enforcement. Media day was held to provide media a better understanding of the Statewide Drug Control Assessment Summit and the creation and function of the state's Office of Drug Control Policy. Another purpose was to assure that Kentucky reporters are aware of the enormous task ahead in changing the way the state addresses its drug problem.

"It's a very large problem, but it's not one we are going to surrender to, and, as the director said, it's one that we have to keep pressure on constantly," Lt. Governor Steve Pence told attendees. "We can beat it. The idea is we must continually fight it every day and get communities fighting it every day."

"We can do a better job," he said. "We know we can do a better job. It just takes a lot of work and a lot of coordination. We're willing to do that."

Walters said a continual effort would make a difference.

"This is like a disease, and you have to be able to reduce the infection, and you need to be able to make the infection go away by a combined effort that both tracks where it is and uses the proven mea-

sures which we know from both research and common sense that make a difference," he said. "When you push back against this problem it gets smaller. That's true in this state. It's true nationally."

This was Walters' second visit to Kentucky to discuss ideas and efforts in the Commonwealth and nationally to better address and reduce substance abuse.

"We were so honored to have Director Walters and Lieutenant Governor Pence visit and speak to all of us about this issue that is doing so much damage in our communities and throughout the nation," said Sylvia Lovely, interim executive director of Kentucky's Office of Drug Control Policy. "This event was a wonderful opportunity for the media covering Kentucky to learn more about the state's drug problem and plan and how it fits in with what is being done nationally. It was also a great time for the media and our other guests to talk and network with people who are addressing the issue in the Kentucky through prevention, treatment and enforcement. It was a success."

### ODCP, Drug Task Forces to Develop Standards

ODCP staff met with representatives of Kentucky law enforcement drug task forces in November to discuss the Statewide Drug Control Assessment Summit's recommendations for improving law enforcement's approach to the substance abuse problem.

ODCP Deputy Director Karyn Hascal; Van Ingram, who is head of the agency's Compliance Branch; and the representatives talked at the November 15 meeting in Louisville about the Summit's recommendation that the ODCP establish standards and model policies for the 11 drug task forces that receive funding from the federal Byrne grant. The grant is administered through the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

The task force members were asked to serve on a standards committee that will include drug task force directors, Kentucky State Police, the Drug Enforcement Administration, commonwealth's attorneys, Appalachia High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Operation UNITE and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's Grants Management Branch.

In addition to standards and policy, the group will also develop data collection requirements, create audit and on-site inspection protocol, and establish measurements for outcome-based results.

Tanya Dickinson and Mike Riley from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinets Grant Management Branch were also on hand at the meeting to discuss Byrne grant funding.

### Drug Task Force Workshop Held in Louisville

More than 50 narcotics officers from across Kentucky recently attended a three-day workshop for drug task forces that complemented the Office of Drug Control Policy's plan to establish standards for the task forces.

The November 15 through 17 training in Louisville covered topics including policy and procedure, personnel issues, confidential informants, risk management and operational planning.

The Institute for Intergovernmental Research conducted the training. The IIR is a Florida-based nonprofit research and training organization that specializes in law enforcement, juvenile justice and criminal justice issues.

Capt. James Parish of the Nebraska State Patrol, who was one of the training instructors, told the narcotics officers that with the turnover in drug task force officers, it was important to conduct the workshop. He said that the course also serves as a reminder for long-time agents that officer safety should always be in the forefront of operations planning.

Parish commented on the professionalism displayed by Kentucky's officers and said that the large class size demonstrated their commitment to training.

Lt. James Welton of the Aurora Police Department in Colorado also instructed the class.

The federal Bureau of Justice Assistance funded the training, which was co-sponsored by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, the U.S. attorney's offices in the eastern and western districts of Kentucky, the Appalachia High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the Regional Organized Crime Information Center.

The ODCP is partnering with the state's Department of Criminal Justice Training and the Drug Enforcement Administration to offer a Basic Narcotics Investigators course in January 2005.

## Kentucky's Drug Court Program Works

*Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert  
Supreme Court of Kentucky*

At all 16 Drug Summit meetings, Summit members heard consistently from law enforcement officials, judges, attorneys, treatment providers and private citizens that drug court works. The reason for the success of drug court throughout Kentucky is that it is a unique combination of treatment, judicial oversight, drug testing and case management.

An adult drug court program consists of three phases and takes at least 12 months to complete. On average, participants take 16 months to graduate from the program. After completing the program, a participant must enter a six-month drug court after-care program.

During Phase I of the program, each week the participant must appear before a judge, submit to at least three random drug tests and attend at least four counseling sessions.

In Phase II, the participant must appear before the judge every other week, submit to at least two random drug tests weekly, attend at least two counseling sessions weekly and attend 12-step programs.

In Phase III, participants are randomly drug tested at least once a week, appear before the judge once every three weeks, attend one counseling session per week and attend 12-step programs.

Along with these requirements, participants must maintain court-approved housing, court-approved employment or educational pursuits and pay court obligations.

Kentucky's prison population doubled in the 1980s and nearly doubled again in the 1990s. By 2003, the prison population had ballooned to 17,330, and more than 3,600 of those inmates were incarcerated for drug offenses. Sixty percent of the 17,330 people imprisoned were chemically dependent.

Kentucky cannot incarcerate its way out of the drug problem

Imprisoning a drug offender will keep him off the streets for a few months or possibly even a few years. However, that offender will often return to the community without having modified his criminal behavior (only 20 percent of inmates receive treatment).

Drug court holds participants accountable for their actions and, by changing criminal thinking through court-enforced treatment, it is an effective way to stop a drug addict from becoming caught in the revolving door of the criminal justice system.

Fifty-eight counties in Kentucky are without funding for a drug court program. More than half of those counties have judges who are ready and willing to establish a drug court program and have asked for funding. However, due to the lengthy Bureau of Justice Assistance grant process and the growing number of grant applicants, obtaining funding to start a new drug court program is becoming more and more difficult.

Nearly 250 programs applied for a grant in 2004, but only 61 were awarded. Kentucky received two awards, the second-highest amount awarded in the country. Nevertheless, Kentucky's need for drug courts still surpasses funding, and many counties are left waiting.

Since the inception of the Kentucky Court of Justice's Drug Court Department in 1996, more than 1,000 participants have graduated from drug court, which covers 55 counties.

The participants represent a savings to the state of more than \$14.5 million in jail/prison costs. In addition, the drug court graduates have a much lower recidivism rate (8 percent for felonies), compared to the recidivism rate of probationers with similar offenses (26 percent for felonies) and compared to the national drug court recidivism rate (16 percent for felonies).

Just as the newly created Office of Drug Control Policy will be an umbrella for research and coordination of prevention, treatment and enforcement of drug issues, the drug courts of the Court of Justice coordinate the treatment, case management, drug testing and judicial supervision of non-violent criminal defendants who are drug addicted.

As more drug court programs are funded, more and more of Kentucky's drug addicts will become tax-paying, productive, non-criminal members of society.

## Prevention: A Community Affair

If you do not work in the area of substance abuse prevention, the terms prevention program and prevention curriculum are probably just Greek to you.

But there are people who work in this area every day, like Champions for A Drug Free Kentucky. Champions coalitions are groups of people in communities who volunteer their time and talents to help keep drugs out of their towns and encourage children to stay drug-free.

The people at Comprehend Regional Prevention Center in Maysville and the Region 8 Champions (Lewis, Mason, Bracken, Fleming and Robertson counties) know there is no magic pill that parents can give their children to keep them away from drugs and alcohol.

There are, however, prevention programs designed to give parents skills and tools that will increase their chances of success.

Families That Care – Guiding Good Choices is one such program. It is a program that aims to reduce substance abuse among teens by teaching parents effective prevention skills before their children enter adolescence.

The key element in the program's success is parental involvement. Parents learn effective parenting techniques, family management

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strategies and how to communicate peer pressure refusal skills to their children.

Karen Hall, prevention specialist at Comprehend, said, "We chose Guiding Good Choices because it is a program that parents can learn and use. The transitional time in middle school is difficult for parents since they are dealing with their children's poor decisions and extreme peer pressure. We have to take prevention to the community. It cannot all be done inside the walls of our schools."

The program is a multimedia skills training program designed to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors that exists in families. In other words, it is designed to increase a child's resistance to drugs and alcohol.

The curriculum consists of five training sessions for parents; parents and their children attend one of these sessions together. Each session uses video segments, workbook exercises and guided discussions.

Goldie Williams, a parent and a GGC trainer, said she is excited about the opportunities for parents to talk with other parents in the program.

"As a parent, it has helped me to focus on key factors that will make my relationship with my children successful," she said.

Parent Stacy Downing of Maysville adds, "This is a program that families can truly put to use in a very short amount of time. It not only assists the parents and children in decision making, it strengthens the family as a whole."

Although this program is designed specifically for use by parents, the entire community of Maysville came together to make it work. Funding for training came in the form of a federal grant from the

Bureau of Justice Assistance. Region 8 Champions purchased the workbooks and materials for the training and continues to support the groups who are implementing the program. When the call to interested groups went out, those who attended the training at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park came from churches, schools, social services, civic groups and others. These folks, in turn, donated their time and trained the parents in their communities.

What are the secrets of good drug prevention in our communities? They are caring families; good, research-based programs; and the willingness of the entire community to get involved to keep its kids off drugs. This story is just one example of the prevention efforts ongoing in our Kentucky communities.

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